



# Opinions

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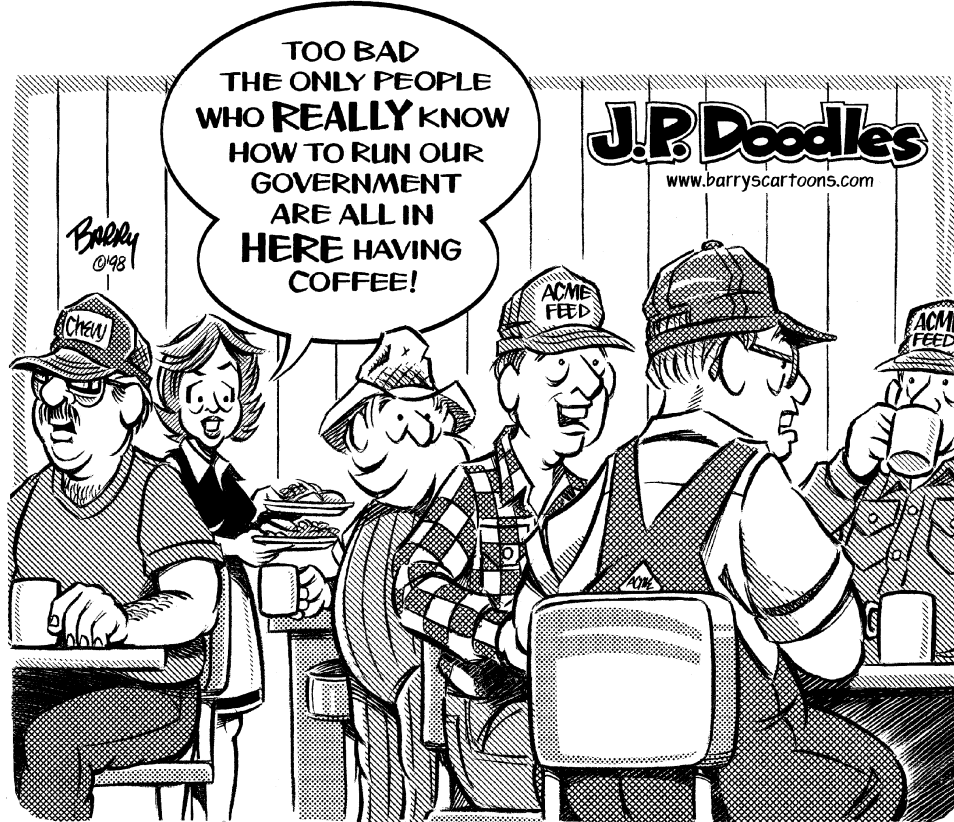
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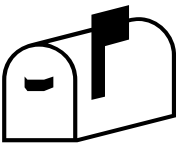
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## Letters



Perhaps you telephoned or visited during the hour of dismay. Perhaps you sent a dish of food to help us on the way. Perhaps you said a silent prayer that God might see us through. Perhaps you gave us words of comfort, as only friend can do. Perhaps you sent a consoling card. Perhaps you rendered a service unseen, near at hand or from afar. Perhaps you sent a funeral spray, potted plant or lovely bouquet. Perhaps you sent a telegram or traveled from miles away. Whatever you did to console our grieved hearts, we shall be grateful whatever the parts. May God bless each and every one of you.

The family of Rachel Hives Kirksey

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for all acts of kindness during our recent loss. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

The family of Donnie Skelton

Tommy, I used to live in Barrytown and worked at Abston Convenience Store for 18 years. I remember you from Butler. I am renewing my subscription and that of my son. Keep up the good work. I enjoy your paper so much. Thanks.

Sylvia G. Mason

Words cannot express our sincere thanks for all the prayers, caring cards, flowers, food, cards, phone calls and your precious time you took to come and show us your support and love during the loss of our father and grandfather, Paul "Peachie" Turner.

Thanks to Rev. James Irby, Rev. Doug Chapman and Rev. Scottie Fulcher for the beau-

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## More than one way to abuse the flag

His voice choked as he spoke. Even through the telephone line, I could tell he was emotional about the issue.

As I listened to the concerns of the faceless voice of the anonymous reader on the phone a few weeks ago, he was not so faceless anymore. I could almost see his eyes well up with tears, and envision his face alive with emotion.

Perhaps I could see his face so well in my mind because his concerns were a mirror of my own, his thoughts an echo of some of the same sentiments I'd felt before.

"When I see the way our American flags are treated, I can't stand it," he said. "They let them get so torn up, and they don't take care of them... It really gets to me."

The patriotism in his voice and in his words was unmistakable. To denigrate a flag, he said, was to denigrate the country that he loved so much.



## Looking Up

By Dee Ann Campbell  
Editor

"People fought for that flag," he said. "They died for it. The least we can do is take care of it."

His emotions ran deep, he said, each time he saw a flag that was not cared for, that was abused or neglected — each time he saw the Stars and Stripes flying in shameful tatters, not because it was torn in battle, but simply because someone neglected to take care of it.

For those with such a deep sense of patriotism, the sight of an abused and neglected flag is more than just a tattered piece of cloth. Rather, it is a neglect of our country and

an abuse of the principles on which it was founded.

Over the past few weeks, I've often thought about that voice on the phone, and I've thought about the flag. I've thought about the abuse and neglect our Stars and Stripes have taken, and the rampant hate that it seems to suffer now more than ever.

But as I thought about it, I realized: there is more than one way to abuse our flag.

Our flag is abused with each movement away from the principles on which our nation was founded. It is tattered each time we allow our

fundamental principles to be eroded and chipped away by those whose secular-progressive ideas are bent on turning us into a socialistic, anti-capitalistic society that has been proven suicidal for nations throughout history.

Our flag is denigrated every time someone allows our founding Judeo-Christian values to be treated as if they are ridiculously old-fashioned, and that anyone who lives by them is somehow less than intelligent.

Our flag is tattered each time someone claims that the attacks that were perpetrated against us on 9/11 were somehow brought about by our own nation's failures, that because we are a wealthy, powerful, and blessed nation we somehow deserve to be hated by those whose own governments have oppressed them.

Our flag is harmed

See Dee Ann page 10A

## Jobless rate was much worse 17 years ago

I was looking back at some old clippings from several years ago and came across an interesting article from October, 1989.

We are prone to gripe, whine and complain about how bad things are in our county, but when you get right down to the bottom line, things are better here in many ways than they have ever been. Case in point.

Seventeen years ago, in October of 1989, Choctaw County's unemployment rate stood at 14.2% — the highest in the state of Alabama at that time.

Today, the jobless rate is 4.6% percent — just one-tenth of a point below that of the national average — while Alabama's unemployment rate is an unbelievable 3.2%.

Do we need more jobs? Sure we do! But the truth is, we're not doing nearly as bad as the left-wing liberal media and



## The way I see it ...

By Tommy Campbell  
Publisher

politicians in Montgomery, Washington, and New York would like for you to believe.

The national housing market is stronger than it's been in years, and the stock market continues to set new records. I am not an economist by any means, but what this says to me is, America's overall economy has made a miraculous recovery since everything went crazy in the days following the 9/11 attacks.

We have much to be thankful for, and I for one am glad to live right here in Gilbertown.

Do we have prob-

lems? Heck, yeah we have problems! But when you look at our way of life here as compared to that of some huge city or some third-world country where you can't walk out your door without dodging drive-by bullets, or even drink the water for fear of catching some dreaded disease, we should get down on our knees and thank the good Lord for allowing us to call Choctaw County HOME.

Choctaw County is a great place to live, work, raise kids, and retire — which is exactly why Dee Ann and I came home to

start this newspaper, a newspaper that with your support is now the county's #1 paper and its only home-owned publication.

As I sat down Sunday evening at my computer, contemplating all of the changes that 2007 will bring to the *Sun* and to Choctaw County, I thought of many things that I am personally thankful for.

But I'd like to hear what you are thankful for and what you see as being priorities that we need to work on improving in 2007. Take a few minutes to tell us and we will use your letters and emails in future issues.

By the way, the paper you hold in your hands in a "first" for Choctaw County — the first of our new twice-weekly editions that will appear on Tuesdays and Fridays. We hope you will enjoy the expanded news and sports coverage.

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**GILBERTOWN OFFICE:**  
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Gilbertown, AL  
Phone: (251) 843-6397

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### Send U.S. Mail to:

P.O. Box 269  
Gilbertown, AL 36908-0269



### Send Emails to:

choctawsun@millry.net

### Visit us online at:

www.choctawsun.com

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